

GISD Safety & Security Public Meeting #1 July 16, 2018

Discussion Question 2

Based on the information presented on mental health supports, please identify at least three areas for improvement. What additional supports/agreements need to be in place to establish effective school community partnerships?

- *How do we have/enforce accountability for social contracts?
- *How do we educate the students on how damaging social media is?
- *Can we have impactful programs/assemblies to educate and inform?
- *How many mental health counselors do you have district wide?
- *How many hours per week do your counselors spend actually counseling for mental health? Doing admin work?
- *Are the new SEL's trained professionals? LPC? Social workers?
- *Educating and communicating with students that if they see something, say something.
- *Really encourage each campus to have parental involvement in SHAC
- *Use of PTO/other resources – parenting skills, coping skills.
- *What is the normal number of hours per school year do the campus counselors spend on mental health counseling with students? With one per campus, if they are testing and handling other roles, how are there times for this?
- *Also with SHAC...no communication has been provided.
- *None appear to be in good shape
- *More guidelines and flexibility for teachers to deal with social media responsibility or harassment.
- *More counselors at the High School level. They have 2 jobs and it seems like scheduling is the only one that gets done.
- *More resources for at risk students – and teachers who have to deal with them
- *I love the SEL project! It would be great to have an elective/required class for students to take on the focus of happiness, mental health, overall well-being.

*I'd be concerned that teachers are already overwhelmed with their assigned curriculum, won't have time to implement the SEL project. Unless the students take a course or there is designated time for SEL only.

*We need more counselors. Example: at AMS there are approximately 550 students for 1 counselor.

*If the bullying policy covers only interactions between students, what resources do you offer to help students who have legit conflict with an adult in GISD? It does happen and kids sometimes do need help.

*Communication with parents on what is available to students

*More training for teachers on how to identify a student that needs help

*Timely access to mental health counselors

*Start at elementary level with anger management

*Parent training/teacher training on things to look for. What to do services to access.

*We need more than what we have. Students are falling through the cracks.

*Increase the number of counselors on campuses.

*Keep the focus of role of the counselor on counseling and working with students so that their needs are met, not testing or other duties.

*Assist parents in accessing resources in the community

*Integrate instructional strategies during lessons that promote a sense of belonging and success.

*Needs to be a way for students to leave campuses on their own to get to Dr. appointments without running around the school trying to find an AP.

*Teachers need to be willing to let students leave without fear of missing material or being able to get that material without punishment.

*Liaison with other area schools to ensure for best practices

*How are students informed about these services?

*Include mental health topics (briefly) during class meetings?

*Emotional support for staff and teachers.

*All principals need to make sure that students who need social emotional support through teen health are allowed to get that support regardless of the time of day and its conflict with instructional time.

*Continue to filter media posts and take to appropriate level.

*Incorporate yoga/meditation into the ISS/DAEP/SAC day.

*Create PSA's (Ball High students) to try to minimize stigmas of depression/anxiety/ etc. and promote WeTip turning in suspicious students/activities.

*Increase access to counseling for staff and teachers.

*Teachers and staff on each campus should receive basic training to recognize mental health concerns exhibited by students.

*Can some initiative be developed to allow trained mental health experts review social media posts that cause concern?

*Maybe connecting more with the students. Making/hoping they see/are willing to see each other in one another's shoes.

*Making counselors and mental health more known and prominent. Maybe in-class visits from counselor. And/or class discussion.

*Also training teachers and/or making teachers meet one-on-one with students to check in so teachers, students, and counselors can be on same page.

*Evaluate each staff member/students fill out a psycho form.

*Immediately report to admin if staff/student is talking suicidal/have a protocol/training for staff.

*Define clear protocol for teachers on how to refer students who are having emotional issues in the classroom.

*More public information and publicity on the teen health clinic.

*Clear protocols for teachers with students having an emotional problem.

*Clear understanding to teens that they can go to the teen health clinic or a counselor.

*Counselors available for struggling students and teachers allowed to send students to counselors for mental health issues (such as students crying or being upset)

*Is there group counseling for students at the teen health clinic?

*Better promotion of the Teen health clinic

*Teacher should be able to send a student to the counselor.

*We should make our students feel they are not alone from the beginning.

*How many mental health counselors do you have district wide?

*How many hours per week do your counselors spend on mental health as opposed to admin duties?

*Are the SEL's trained professionals?